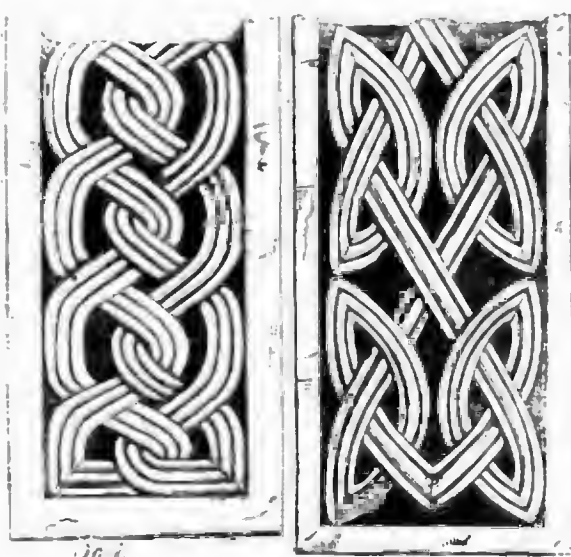
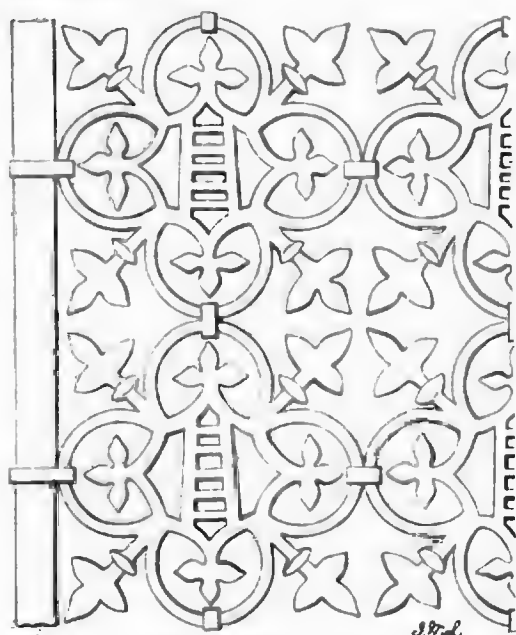


DECORATIONS, &c., FROM ABROAD.



FRETS—EIGHTH CENTURY.



IRONWORK—FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

DECORATIONS, &c., FROM ABROAD.

FRETS FROM SANTA MARIA, IN COSMEDIN,
AND SAN CLEMENTE, ROME.

The first of these churches was restored by Hadrian I., in 752, to which period this ornament must be ascribed. San Clemente was restored by the same Pope ten years earlier. The second fret forms a portion of the architrave of door to the ancient porch leading from the street into the Atrium, or quadriporticus, in front of this church. These two frets are precisely similar in style and execution; the triple band is a very common ornament of the period, and undoubtedly of the time of Hadrian I., 772—798.

IRON TRELLIS WORK OF ENCLOSURE TO
TOMB OF CAN SIGORD (1359—1375).
VERONA QUARTER FULL SIZE.

A beautiful example of mediæval iron-work, in which the canting arms of the family (Scaligeri), a ladder, is happily introduced.

These engravings, with two others already given under the same general heading, are from the sketch-book of Mr. J. M. Lockyer.

SOME MATTERS ARCHITECTURAL.

The Birmingham Workhouse Competition.—The Birmingham (late) board of guardians have entailed upon their successors much trouble and annoyance by their proceedings in respect of the competition designs for the new workhouse, which were reported in our pages. If we may believe local informants, the board themselves lost their re-election to office through it, and have been succeeded by an entirely fresh set of men.

The selected design, by Mr. Hemming, had been sent to the Poor-law Board, and returned with various suggestions. These had been attended to, and fresh plans, we believe, made, but, nevertheless, at a meeting of the new board on the 18th instant, a motion that these plans be adopted was lost by 75 to 2. An amendment to the effect that the six selected plans should be forwarded to the Poor-law Board for their opinion upon them; and another, to the effect that these six should be submitted to three London architects for their decision, shared the same fate.

It was then moved by Mr. R. Wright, "That all the resolutions of the late Board of guardians, and of its special committee, respecting the erection of a new workhouse, since the 30th of October last, be rescinded, and that the present board proceed as if no such

resolutions had been passed; and the clerk be directed to advertise for plans, specifying the conditions required; that such advertisement should set forth that the cost of such erection is not to exceed 25,000l.; and that the plans sent in should be referred to three architects, to be selected by the guardians, to examine the same, and report their opinion thereon to that board."

This was to be discussed on the 25th. If the board had followed our advice in the first instance, and obtained proper professional assistance in the selection, they would have spared themselves much obloquy, their successors much trouble, and their constituents much expense. According to the *Birmingham Journal*, Mr. Hemming has a claim of nearly 500l. on the parish, for the expense to which he has been put, and this will probably have to be settled in a court of law. We shall be glad if other boards are led by this occurrence to consider what they owe to architects who, confiding in their honour, submit plans in competition at great cost of time and of money, and so be induced not merely to act without reference to local connections or private friendship, but distrust their own capacity in a matter out of their usual course, and call to their assistance properly-qualified men.

The Bentinck Testimonial has been already mentioned by us to the effect, that the design selected is a Gothic cross, and is to be placed in the centre of Mansfield market-place, which is about half-way between Nottingham and Welbeck Abbey. The memorial is to be about fifty feet high, of the style that prevailed in the fourteenth century. A local paper gives the following particulars:—"It is square upon the base, and occupies a space, including the steps, of twenty feet square. The whole is divided into three compartments, or stages, the lowest forming the pedestal; the centre a gabled canopy, supported on pinnacled buttresses and clustered columns; the highest a lofty spire roof, pierced with traceried and gabled lights, terminating with a gilded vane. The lowest stage consists of a flight of steps, surmounted by an arcaded pedestal containing shields with the armorial bearings of the family of Lord George, and a deeply-weathered set-off to receive the buttresses and columns of the canopy. At the four angles of the set-off are pedestals surmounted by lions in a sitting posture, supporting vases, upon which also will be emblazoned the arms of the family. The gables of the canopy are filled with diaper work, and contain carvings emblematical of the interests which his lordship specially advocated. The

whole of the pinnacles, gables, and spire-lights are covered with crockets." The architect is Mr. T. Hine, of Nottingham.

The Exit Eastward from Long Acre.—Commenting on the error which was committed (for no want of protest on our part), when the destroyed houses which form the abominable obstruction known as Middle-row, Holborn, were permitted to be rebuilt, the *Morning Herald*, says—"Just in like manner, only a few weeks since, two houses were removed, exactly opposite the eastern end of Long-acre. That the site on which they stood ought to have been thrown into the street, so as to form a convenient sweep from Long-acre into Queen-street, was obvious to every passer-by. But no one took any step in the matter, and new houses are rising where the old ones stood,—just as if there was no eye or mind in the whole metropolis, to take the least interest in the improvement of the public thoroughfares."

As respects ourselves, it happens that we are personally interested in this property, and were therefore forced to be silent, to avoid personal imputation. Our interests, in a pecuniary point of view, would probably have suffered rather than have been benefitted by the purchase of the property to widen the road, but others might have asserted differently, if we had advocated the enlargement.

To say that no one took any steps in the matter, however, is scarcely correct. Various strong representations were made to the parish authorities, and a deputation of the Bloomsbury Paving Board, a very influential body, attended the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, to induce them to take advantage of a good opportunity to remove what has ever been a great obstruction, and to effect, comparatively cheaply, an improvement which has been so often planned and desired. The commissioners told their surveyor to look at it, but beyond this nothing has been done, and new houses are now rising, which will probably have to be bought and pulled down before many years have passed away.

In connection with the condemnation of the houses here, entailing a large outlay and loss on individuals, we would urge on district surveyors the importance of always well considering such cases, and exercising the power given them by the Act with the greatest caution. We do not wish it inferred that any want of caution or unwise exercise of power was shown here by our friend, Mr. Pownall, but simply take advantage of the occurrence to make the remark. And *à propos* of district surveyors, we